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London Paper Publishes Report That Spies Wrote for Vice President

LONDON, Nov. 15 (UPI) — A High Court judge has issued a temporary injunction barring the Sunday Times newspaper from publishing details of allegations that previously unidentified members of a Soviet spy ring once helped write a speech for an American vice president.

The Sunday Times avoided giving the nationalities of the spies, describing the agents as men "identified by British intelligence as Communist activists who lived in the United States for years."

But it said the men "had close ties with both the United Nations and the White House" and "on at least one occasion, helped write a speech for a former American vice president." The article did not indicate for which vice president the speech was allegedly written.

The most infamous Soviet espionage ring in the United States involved British master spy Kim

Philby, the "third man" in the ring, who served in the United States from 1949 to 1952. In 1963 when his cover was finally blown, Philby fled to the Soviet Union.

The injunction barring the identification of the alleged spies runs until Thursday and has to be argued in court for a final decision.

One of the men involved flew to London Friday night and consulted his lawyers, the paper said.

"At a three-hour meeting in a London hotel that night he flatly denied allegations contained in documents from the U.S. State Department and intelligence," the paper said.

The London Observer, meanwhile, renewed speculation that the late head of Britain's vaunted MI5 military intelligence, Roger Hollis, was a Soviet spy for 27 years. It said intelligence officers believe Hollis may have destroyed documents incriminating him before he retired in 1965.